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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/16) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23 on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution A/73/L.23, the General Assembly would: (a) welcome the fact that Egypt has agreed to the opening of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States in Cairo and request that the Secretariat of the United Nations coordinate with Egypt to expedite the opening of the office and, in cooperation with the secretariat of the League of Arab States, to finish preparing and adopt the terms of reference defining the functions and mandate of the United Nations liaison office; and, in that context, request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue convening meetings of the high-level working group to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the protocol of amendment of the text of the cooperation agreement between the two organizations, until the liaison office is opened in Cairo; (b) request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue their periodic consultations; and (c) emphasize the importance of holding the fourteenth sectoral meeting between the two organizations and their specialized

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agencies, to be held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in 2019, and the fifteenth general cooperation meeting between the two organizations, to be held at the United Nations centre in Vienna in 2020. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

3. The required resources would amount to $287,400 for 2019: (a) under section 3, Political affairs, an amount of $267,100, comprising: (i) $151,300 for the establishment of one Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) post to manage the liaison office and to develop a stakeholder network, and of one Administrative Assistant (Local level) post to provide administrative support for the Office; (ii) $29,700 for official travel; (iii) $62,600 for general operating expenses; (iv) $700 for supplies and materials; (v) $22,800 for furniture and equipment; and (b) under section 36, Staff assessment, an amount of $20,300. Furthermore, logistical support would be provided by the office of the United Nations Development Programme in Cairo on a cost-reimbursable basis (A/C.5/73/16, paras. 9–12).

4. It is further indicated in the statement that no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the requested activities and that it would not be possible at present to identify activities within the sections concerned that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium (A/C.5/73/16, para. 13).

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/73/L.23, an additional appropriation in the amount of $287,400, representing a charge against the contingency fund, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, comprising: $267,100 under section 3, Political affairs, and $20,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of one post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and one post of Administrative Assistant (Local level), effective 1 January 2019, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**